THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) During the last three years, 132 surveys for new rail line projects were completed.

(b) and (c) A survey for gauge conversion of Dholpur-Sirmuttra narrow gauge line into broad gauge and its extension from Sirmuttra to Gangapur City by construction of a new broad gauge line was conducted in 1998. The survey report revealed that the cost of 144.60 kms. long line would be Rs. 170.34 crores with a negative rate of return. Due to unremunerative nature of the line and acute constraint of resources the project could not be considered.

Harassment of women passengers

3469. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of sexual harassment against women passenger have increased in Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Though maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railways premises including Railway Stations and running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, the Railways co-ordinate with the State Governments for ensuring better security to the passengers. The Railway administration has taken the following steps:

1. Anti-social elements are removed from Railway premises and trains.
2. Coach Attendants/TTEs keep proper watch on the passengers entering/ detraining from the coaches.
3. The coaches are locked during night hours.
4. FIR forms are made available with the Train Guards/Stations masters/ RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.
5. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is done at all levels.

6. Announcement through Public Address system and CCTV at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers against theft of their belongings etc.

7. RPF Assistance posts are provided at important stations to assist passengers in lodging FIRs with Government Railway Police.

8. Periodical High Level co-ordination Meetings and Government Railway Police and Local Police are conducted to analyze the crime position with a view to taking suitable preventive measures.

9. Steps have been taken to sensitize the RPF personnel to the problems of women passengers by organizing workshops and seminars.

10. Ladies' compartments are escorted in some suburban areas by lady constables of GRP and RPF.

11. Special squads consisting of lady ticket checking staff and lady RPF personnel have been formed in Central, South Central and Western Railways to assist the women passengers.

Technologies to counter sinister moves of militants

3470. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has urged the scientists to back the nation in its battle against terrorism, by providing the latest technological means to counter sinister moves plotted by militants, using modern technologies;

(b) if so, whether the scientists have been making researches on the new technologies to counter the moves of militants;

(c) if so, to what extent Government have been able to seek the scientists' advice in this regard; and

(d) whether any details have been provided by the scientists to Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) The Government is conscious of the need to develop technologies in its efforts against terrorism and to counter sinister moves of militants. The Government continuously seeks advice of scientists and scientific institutions including National labs while working towards develop- ment of modern technologies in this regard.